

Minutes of the meeting BMBF Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2015



on 6 October 2015, University of Konstanz

Participants

- Volker Haucke
- Uli Nienhaus
- Anje Sporbert
- Jan Huisken
- Roland Nitschke
- Stefan Terjung
- Ullrich Köthe
- Jan Peychl
- Pavel Tomancak
- Elisa May
- Alexander Rohrbach
- Nadine Utz
- Dorit Merhof
- Martin Spitaler
- Werner Zuschratter

Elisa May

- Introduction to German Biolmaging
- Review of activities since Roadmap 2013, GEBI Proposal; Euro-Biolmaging was not included in the national Roadmap 2011-2013; Germany is not a member in EUBI; DFG is an observer in the Interim Board of EUBI
- Briefing on Roadmap 2015 (see slides attached)
- Proposal and Discussion about a German Biolmaging concept for the Roadmap 2015. Percentage of open access to be offered should be discussed further. At the present point 50% seems too high, also in light of the fact that it is unclear how personnel and running costs will be covered. Further suggestions for Advisory Board members: Scott Fraser, Peter Friedl, Iva Tolic, Cornelia Denz.

Contributions by participants

Roland Nitschke, Alexander Rohrbach, Volker Haucke, Jan Huisken, Pavel Tomanek, Jan Peychl, Werner Zuschratter, Stefan Terjung, and Ullrich Köthe gave short presentations about how they envisage to contribute to an open access distributed infrastructure for advanced imaging.

Open discussion

- Necessity for an overarching theme or vision for the proposal, "think big", the RI should be more than the sum of its parts. "Imaging across scales". Alternatively collection of "Images of Life across scales"
- It is important to regard the proposal from the users' perspective.
- "Translational" infrastructure: from developers to users, and from developers to companies (patents)
- This type of RI demands more staff than one based on commercial instruments.
- Inclusion of "work horse" instruments as a second pillar of the concept is important.
- Innovation cycles, the RI must be flexible to include new technologies (flexible budget).
- Software developers mainly need resources for personnel (writing code for driving microscopes and for extracting useful information from image data).
- Resources for 4D Big Data storage, processing, and visualization (computing clusters at a couple of sites).
- Include also correlative techniques in addition to LM.
- Importance of financial concept. EU-Openscreen: BMBF does not pay for personnel. Financially sustainable during operation phase. Costs could (partly) be covered by user fees, if users can afford them. Company support will be important. DFG should be contacted for special programmes for RIs. Financial commitment of the hosting research institutes is crucial. Declarations will be needed, in particular for covering staff costs during the operation phase.
- Max duration of construction phase: up to 10 years. Include pilot operational phase.

At the end of the meeting, the participants voted unanimously for preparing a proposal for inclusion into the Roadmap 2015.